

THE CENTER

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NYC's LGBT Community Center Names Annex Building for Artist Keith Haring

New name celebrates Haring's connection to The Center, honors The Center's commitment to the LGBTQ community, and recognizes the largest gift the organization has ever received.

NEW YORK — MAY 4, 2022 — New York City's LGBT Community Center (The Center) today unveiled a new name for its annex building: the Keith Haring Community Wing. As an artist and social activist, Keith Haring was a prominent member of New York City's East Village art scene who achieved global acclaim for his "subway drawings" and public works.

The Keith Haring Community Wing celebrates Haring's connection to The Center, and recognizes a gift of \$3.7 million from the Keith Haring Foundation, which is the largest gift The Center has ever received and the largest award the Foundation has issued to date. The new name honors the organizations' commitments to the LGBTQ community.

"This is an exciting update to The Center's historic space. The new name for this wing serves as a reminder of our collective power as an LGBTQ+ community, and expresses our gratitude for an incredible gift that ensures The Center will be able to continue our mission of helping LGBTQ+ New Yorkers live successful and healthy lives," said Glenda Testone, The Center's Executive Director.

The Center offers many of its programs and services in the Keith Haring Community Wing, such as HIV testing, mental health support, substance use treatment, case management, patient navigation, and youth-specific programming.

The Keith Haring Foundation's gift dates to the fall of 2020, when the Foundation auctioned Haring's personal collection of art to raise funds benefiting The Center. The auction featured works by renowned creatives and street artists, including Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, John "Crash" Matos, Kenny Scharf, Lady Pink, Lee Quiñones, Rammellzee, and Roy Lichtenstein.

"Because community is so central to what happens here, and to what has ever happened here, I like to think that this wing is really named after Keith Haring's community," said Gil Vazquez, Executive Director at the Keith Haring Foundation.

Throughout his career, Keith Haring devoted much of his time to public works, which often carried social messages. He produced more than 50 public artworks between 1982 and 1989 in dozens of cities around the world, many of which were created for charities, hospitals, children's day care centers, and orphanages. When Haring painted his iconic mural, "Once Upon a Time," in The Center in 1989, he cemented a connection that continues today through the Keith Haring Foundation's long-standing support of The Center's work.

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER**
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About The Center

Established in 1983 as a result of the AIDS crisis, New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has grown and evolved over the last four decades, creating and delivering services that empower people to lead healthy, successful lives. We currently operate in-person and virtually, providing recovery and wellness programs, economic advancement initiatives, family and youth support, advocacy, arts and cultural events, and space for community organizing and connection. For more information, please visit gaycenter.org.

About the Keith Haring Foundation

Keith Haring (1958-1990) generously contributed his talents and resources to numerous causes. He conducted art workshops with children, created logos and posters for public service agencies, and produced murals, sculptures, and paintings to benefit health centers and communities impacted by systemic inequity. In 1989, Haring established a foundation to ensure that his philanthropic legacy would continue indefinitely.

The Keith Haring Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit entities that engage in charitable and educational activities. In accordance with Keith's wishes, the Foundation concentrates its giving in two areas: The support of organizations which enrich the lives of young people and the support of organizations which engage in education, prevention and care with respect to AIDS and HIV infection.

Keith Haring additionally charged the Foundation with maintaining and protecting his artistic legacy after his death. The Foundation maintains a collection of art along with archives that facilitate historical research about the artist and the times and places in which he lived and worked. The Foundation supports arts and educational institutions by funding exhibitions, programming, and publications that serve to contextualize and illuminate the artist's work and philosophy. For more information, please visit haring.com

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